NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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NLM Regents Meet

The introduction of two new members and a visit by Dr. Roger Egeberg, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, DHEW, highlighted the thirty-fourth meeting of the NLM Board of Regents at NLM, November 20 - 21.

Dr. Egeberg met briefly with the members at their opening session. He was introduced to the group by Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director. The two members attending their first meeting were William O. Baker, Ph.D., Vice-President in Charge of Research, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N.J., and Jack M. Layton, M.D., Professor and Head, Department of Pathology, The University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona.

Mr. Alfred R. Zipf, Executive Vice-President of the Bank of America, San Francisco, California, and Board Chairman, presided at the two-day meeting. After the first day's session, a dinner attended by the Regents, NLM staff, and special guests was held at the Officers' Club of the National Naval Medical Center. Dr. Max Michael, Jr., Executive Director, Jacksonville Hospitals Educational Programs, Duval Medical Center, Jacksonville, Florida, was the speaker of the evening. His subject was "The Ivory Tower Crumbles."

GRACE Retires to Smithsonian

The National Library of Medicine sponsored the development of the first computer-driven high-speed phototypesetter, GRACE (Graphic Arts Composing Equipment). Only five years ago, it was the fastest and most sophisticated phototypesetter in the nation. Now it is a historic relic, joining other prototype systems in the antique and historical printing collection of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

The early 1960's saw the National Library of Medicine enter the computer age with the development of MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System). The high-speed computers which store biomedical information on tapes were operational by 1964. In 1962, when MEDLARS was still in the planning stage, the Library realized that storing references in computers posed the problem of how

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Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Peter K. Monk, Acting Chief, Office of Public Information and Publications Management

Ann R. Lindsay Editor (301-496-6308)
Roger L. Gilkeson Assistant Editor (301-496-3661)
Daniel Carangi Graphics

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to compose and distribute this information in legible printed form with the utmost speed. The computer printouts available at that time required many pages because of the single large type size. Realizing that a more efficient machine was needed, the Library contracted for the development of a computer-driven photocomposition device with various type fonts and print sizes. The result was GRACE (Graphic Arts Composing Equipment), developed by the Photon Corporation and delivered to NLM in 1964.

GRACE operated at the rate of 300 characters, or 3600 words per minute - five times faster than any previous mechanical phototypesetter. Unlike the standard single-font computer printouts, GRACE used three fonts of type in six, ten, and fourteen point size, both upper- and lower-case. The three fonts contained a total of 226 characters, including special characters such as diacritical marks for certain foreign languages. It was estimated to have the power of 55 Linotype operators.

In 1964 GRACE replaced a Honeywell on-line printer and printed the August issue of *Index Medicus*. It was a 609-page document containing 13,733 different citations from biomedical journals for a total of approximately 9,000,000 characters or approximately 1,800,000 five-letter words. GRACE processed the material in about 18 hours. Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, called that issue of *Index Medicus* "something of an historic document, because of its great significance to medicine, printing, and the library sciences." However, GRACE, as a prototype, was almost literally hand-made; by mid-1969 it was not economically feasible to maintain it in reliable operating condition.

A new production model PHOTON ZIP 901 has replaced GRACE. The Smithsonian Institution has stated that it is happy to accept the GRACE equipment, adding that, as a prototype for a computer-driven photocomposition system, GRACE will be a significant addition to the Smithsonian's printing equipment collection.

NLM Director Honored at Duke

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director of the National Library of Medicine, has received from the Duke Medical Center a Distinguished Alumni Award for his contributions toward answering the "medical knowledge explosion." The award was given on November 7th at the Duke Medical Center Alumni Banquet in Durham, North Carolina. As a member of the Duke medical class of 1944, Dr. Cummings also delivered the annual Trent Lecture and presented to the Trent Collection a copy of a rare early American imprint. This work, Amasa Dingley's *An Oration on the Improvement of Medicine* (New York, 1794), has been designated as the 100,00th volume in the Duke Medical Center Library.

MEDLARS Search Workshop

The most recent in a continuing series of workshops for MEDLARS searchers took place at the Library November 24-25, with participants from England, Sweden, Germany, and France, as well as from this country. Also attending the two days' sessions were NLM searchers and the trainees now at the Library.

The first day's program included reports from the center, a presentation by Mr. Stanley Jablonski, Head, Index Section, BSD, on indexing and the 1970 MeSH, and one by Mr. Samuel Waters, Deputy Associate Director for Library Operations, on network activities. Speaking in the afternoon were Miss Florence Johnson, University of Alabama MEDLARS Station, on "Search Request Acceptance/Rejection," Mrs. Doris DesChene, University of Washington searcher, on "New Subheading Suggestions," and Mr. Constantine J. Gillespie, Head, MEDLARS Management Section, BSD, on "MMS Activities."

The second day's session opened with a search exercise presented by NIH searchers and a guest scientist, Dr. Michael R. Peterson, Division of Biologics Standards, Laboratory of Viral Immunology. Next was a report on the status of MEDLARS II by Mr. Ralph Simmons, Chief, MEDLARS II Management Staff, after which Mrs. Betsey Beamish, UCLA MEDLARS Station, spoke on "Mode of Request Transmission and Search Performance." Dr. Raquel Halegua, Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Library Operations, reported on "Experience with User Orientations," and Mrs. Edith Blair, Reference Section, RSD, spoke on "The Literature Search Series."

MLA Honors Scott Adams

The Medical Library Association's Marcia C. Noyes Award for outstanding contributions to medical librarianship was presented this year to Scott Adams, NLM Deputy Director from 1960 until his detail on September 1 to the National Academy of Sciences. The presentation was made at the banquet which climaxed the Association's Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, last month. The award was preceded by a tribute from Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director (delivered, in his absence, by Dr. Peter D. Olch, Deputy Chief of the NLM History of Medicine Division), which cited Mr. Adams as "a writer of rare distinction...[and] a great statesman of medical librarianship."

A paper by Mr. David F. Kefauver, NLM's Associate Director for Extramural Programs, entitled "RMLP and RMP: Where Are They and Where Are They Going?" was presented by Mr. Robert Walkington, Chief of EP's Resources Division, during a session on regional medical library programs and regional medical programs.

Dr. Cummings became a member of the MLA Board of Directors, thus joining the many NLM staff members serving the Association now and in the past.

Index Head Authors New Dictionary

W. B. Saunders Company, medical publishers in Philadelphia, have recently issued the *Illustrated Dictionary of Eponymic Syndromes and Diseases and Their Synonyms*, by Stanley Jablonski, Head of NLM's Index Section and a recognized medical lexicographer. In this dictionary are assembled about 11,000 eponyms and descriptive synonyms used to designate syndromes and diseases, over 2,000 of which are main eponymic entries. These include many pathological conditions named after discoverers, literary and mythological characters, and patients. Terms used to identify clinical entities,

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animal diseases, experimental diseases and cancers, important diagnostic signs, and pathological conditions are entered along with their non-eponymic synonyms.

Illustrations are provided for disorders which are particularly difficult to describe. Most eponyms have been traced to their original description, and the original source is given in the list of references following the definition.

New Format for Current Catalog

Beginning in January 1970, biweekly and cumulative quarterly issues of the *NLM Current Catalog* will be discontinued in favor of monthly and non-cumulative quarterlies. A separate annual cumulation will be available, although no longer as part of the quarterly subscription. The monthly issues will contain the name section only, with quarterlies and annual containing both subject and name sections.

As before, all subscriptions will be handled by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. The prices are as follows: (a) 12 monthly issues -- $7.50 ($9.50 foreign); single issues ($0.65); (b) 4 three-month cumulations (quarterlies) -- $13.00 ($16.25 foreign); single issues, $3.25; and (c) annual cumulation (1970) -- $16.25 ($20.35 foreign). [The 1968 annual cumulation will appear in the spring of 1970 for $14.25 ($17.85 foreign.]

The Library will continue issuing semiweekly proof sheets on a selective experimental basis.

Literature Search Program

Since 1965, the Library has been reprinting copies of selected demand searches for distribution to a wide audience. These bibliographies, called "Literature Searches," have proved highly popular among health professionals, and efforts to expand the program have recently been implemented with formation of an ad hoc committee responsible for overseeing all aspects of the program: selection of titles, editorial review, and distribution.

A complete list of searches presently available may be obtained by writing the Literature Search Program, Reference Section, NLM, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014. (This list also appears monthly within *Index Medicus* and the *Monthly Bibliography of Medical Reviews.*) Single copies of the bibliographies listed are available (without charge) from the above address, and should be requested by number and title. Please do not use interlibrary loan forms.

NMAC Films Win Recognition

Dr. James Lieberman, Director of the National Medical Audiovisual Center, accepted an honor award at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons in Washington, D. C., November 19, for the NMAC production, "Stop Rubella." Another Center production, "Cholera Today, Part 2 - Practical Laboratory Diagnosis," recently won a bronze medal at the 12th International Film and TV Festival of New York, sponsored by Industrial Exhibitors, Inc.